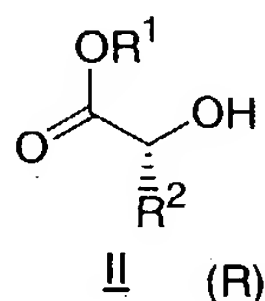
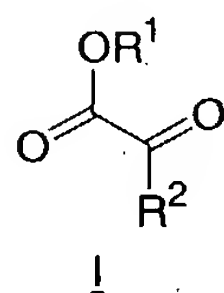


## WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A process for preparing (R)-hydroxy ester (II)



- 5 from alpha-keto ester I



comprising adding the alpha-keto ester I to a mixture comprising the ketoreductase enzyme and non-ketoreductase enzyme components, wherein

- 10 R<sup>1</sup> is C<sub>1-4</sub> alkyl; and

R<sup>2</sup> is selected from the group consisting of

C<sub>1-8</sub> alkyl,

C<sub>1-8</sub> alkyl, substituted with C<sub>3-7</sub> cycloalkyl,

aryl, and

- 15 a 5- to 7-membered saturated or unsaturated heterocyclic ring,

wherein the ketoreductase enzyme has a molecular weight between 36000 and 38000, and wherein the ketoreductase enzyme has an N-terminal amino acid sequence selected from the group of sequences consisting of

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Ala-Ile-Pro-Asp-Asn-Ala-Val-Leu-Glu-Gly-Ser-Leu-Val-Lys-Val-Thr-Gly-Ala-Asn-Gly (SEQ. ID NO. 1),

Met-Ala-Ile-Pro-Asp-Asn-Ala-Val-Leu-Glu-Gly-Ser-Leu-Val-Lys-Val-Thr-Gly-Ala-

- 25 Asn-Gly (SEQ. ID NO. 4),

and

Met-Ala-Lys-Ile-Asp-Asn-Ala-Val-Leu-Pro-Glu-Gly-Ser-Leu-Val-Leu-Val-Thr-Gly-Ala-Asn-Gly (SEQ ID NO. 2).

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2. A process of Claim 1, wherein the N-terminal amino acid sequence is selected from the group consisting of

Ala-Ile-Pro-Asp-Asn-Ala-Val-Leu-Glu-Gly-Ser-Leu-Val-Lys-Val-Thr-Gly-Ala-Asn-Gly, and

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Met-Ala-Ile-Pro-Asp-Asn-Ala-Val-Leu-Glu-Gly-Ser-Leu-Val-Lys-Val-Thr-Gly-Ala-Asn-Gly.

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3. A process of Claim 2, wherein the non-ketoreductase enzyme components comprise NADP, a cofactor recycling system comprising a hydride source and a catalyst, and a buffer suitable for maintaining a pH of between about 5 and about 10.

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4. A process of Claim 3, wherein temperature is between about 25 and about 40°C.

5. A process of Claim 4, wherein the hydride source is glucose and the catalyst is glucose dehydrogenase.

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6. A process of Claim 5, wherein the mixture comprises an amount of ketoreductase between about 0.1 and about 10 g/L, an amount of NADP between about 0.1 and about 10 g/L.

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7. A process of Claims 1, wherein R<sup>2</sup> is selected from the group consisting of

